

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 241573

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS, CPRS, SA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONSULAR ASSISTANCE (DOUGLAS, PAUL)

1. OFFICE OF SENATOR BUMPER (ARKANSAS) HAS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN INVESTIGATING CONSTITUENT'S CLAIM THAT HIS SON, PAUL DOUGLAS, OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS, EMPLOYED AT KING FAISAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, RIYADH, AS A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST, IS UNABLE TO DEPART SAUDI ARABIA BECAUSE SAUDI AUTHORITIES ARE HOLDING HIS PASSPORT AND REFUSE TO RETURN IT. DOUGLAS TELEPHONED HIS PARENTS ON OCTOBER SEVENTH TO REPORT ON HIS SITUATION AND STATED THAT HE IS ONE OF FIFTY EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE QUIT BECAUSE OF BREACH OF CONTRACT. ALL 50, HE SAYS, ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS. PARENTS ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT DOUGLAS'S CONTRACT IS DIRECTLY WITH SAUDI GOVERNMENT. DOUGLAS HAS NO PERSONAL PHONE BUT RESIDES IN HOSPITAL APARTMENT BUILDING FACING OR ADJACENT TO HOSPITAL.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS ESSENTIALLY A LABOR DISPUTE AND THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION NUMBER 826 OF JULY UNCLASSIFIED

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24, 1975 (15-7-1395) STIPULATES THAT FOREIGN EMPLOYEES ARE

FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THEIR JOBS BEFORE THE END OF THE CONTRACT PERIOD. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE SURE THAT IF CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF SAUDI AUTHORITIES AT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL, POINT WILL BE APPRECIATED THAT ANYTHING WHICH SMACKS OF

HOLDING EMPLOYEES AGAINST THEIR WILL WHEN THEY WISH TO TERMINATE THEIR CONTRACTS WILL NOT FACILITATE FUTURE RECRUITMENT OF SKILLED MANPOWER NEEDED BY THE KINGDOM.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK TO OBTAIN DETAILS OF CASE, ASCERTAIN IF OTHER AMERICANS MAY BE AMONG THE FIFTY REPORTED TO BE DESIROUS OF LEAVING, AND, IF YOU DEEM IT APPROPRIATE, RAISE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE SAG OFFICIALS. APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT. KISSINGER

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